

It Is Necessary That Youth Be Prepared To Participate In System

BY ROBERT SELLERS
Special To The Beacon

In view of the recent significant developments in Eastern Europe, where communism is crumbling and where free enterprise and freedom are mushrooming, I offer the following resolution for our citizens and education leaders to consider.

Now, more than at any other time in recent history, it is absolutely necessary for our educational institutions to face, with foresight, reality in their preparation of our youth if we (USA) are to survive as a producing and exporting nation.

Remember, 1992 and the European Economic Community implementation is in view on the horizon.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants; and

Whereas, on a Friday in late May 1787 a group of men met in Philadelphia to design a new government for their new country and the government they produced after nearly four months of discussion, argument and compromise was put into written form in the remarkable document that is the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, this document has continued and prospered, adapting itself to changes that its framers could

not possibly have imagined would take place over the course of new 200-plus years; and

Whereas, the United States system of government is not simple and, on the contrary, it is probably the most complicated of the more than 160 such systems that now exist in the world; and

Whereas, the Constitution's opening words read: "We the people of the United States..." and no other words in all of that remarkable document are more important or more meaningful and, here, in these seven words, the Constitution proclaims the very essence of the American system of government and economic system of free enterprise; and

Whereas, as Americans, we take great and justifiable pride in that system of government because it is self-government under the law—government of the people, by the people and for the people, and it is a government in which "we the people" rule, and a government which exists only to do our bidding; and

Whereas, we take pride, too, in the fact that our system of government and free enterprise economy are and have been for generations the envy of peoples the world over and many other nations have tried governmental systems much like ours and none of them has lasted for so long, nor has any of them been developed on so large a scale; and

Whereas, as we take that pride, however, it seems

wise to remember this: we have learned much from—and we owe much to—some of those other peoples and nations, and as we know, our debts to the ancient Greeks and to the not-so-ancient-English are especially large; and

Whereas, it seems wise to remember another fact, too: systems of self-government have been exceedingly rare over the course of human history and authoritarian systems—whether known as tyrannies, despotisms or dictatorships—have been much more durable and considerably more numerous; and

Whereas, "We the People" rule the world's largest and the world's most powerful democracy and yet, more than four billion other people and more than 160 other nations share our globe and, viewed against such a backdrop, then, this also seems wise: that all public school and college students must make a study of the American system of government, its history and economy, with a look at the many forms of government and economic systems to be found in the world today and much of what exists, and many of the things that happen, in even the farthest corners of the globe, can have an immediate and an important effect upon our daily lives and may even affect the very future of our existence as a nation, also make world history, geography and economics a necessary study, and since we have no choice as to whether or not we shall play a great

part in the world since that has been determined for us by fate; the only question is whether we will play that part well or badly; and

Whereas government is among the oldest of all human inventions and its origins are lost in the mists of pre-historic time, and government first appeared when human beings realized that they could not live without it—when people first realized that they could not survive without some form of authority, some power that could regulate both their own and their neighbors' conduct.

Now, therefore, be it resolved as follows: that the students, parents, teachers, business people (to include farming, fishing, etc.), free enterprise related organizations, veterans groups, social clubs and all churches strongly endorse this resolution and encourage the Brunswick County boards of education and college trustees to do likewise and to adopt the policy that, first and foremost, the Brunswick County schools and colleges have a duty to offer and require (over and above present policy) selected courses in American government, U. S. history, economics, world history and geography that will prepare graduating students to enter as informed citizens into the normal economy ready to participate in the systems of self-government on international, national, state, local and community levels.

Redwine Calls Meeting To Give Town Officials Chance To Talk

Officials from 19 cities and towns in Brunswick and Pender counties will meet with Rep. David Redwine Dec. 7 to discuss mutual interests and concerns.

Redwine is hosting the dinner meeting at the Brunswick County Government Center, the first such meeting of its kind. So far 40 people representing six towns have made reservations; Redwine said he's expecting approximately 100, but that some Brunswick County towns just haven't responded.

Ellis Hankins, attorney with the N.C. League of Municipalities, will be the guest speaker. He's expected to talk about trends in municipal government and other concerns that surfaced at the league's convention this year.

But Redwine said he hopes Hankins' talk will be the beginning, not the end of the program. "What I envision happening is these officials sharing ideas. I'd like to find out what's on their minds and share a few things that are on mine," he said. "In my opinion this county is in the midst of transition from a rural, agricultural lifestyle to a more suburban lifestyle.

"We have a lot of people moving here from other places; they're demanding the kinds of services that they are used to," he continued. "And this growth is also bringing some new problems."

Opening some lines of communication among the towns could help, as their officials share ideas and solutions.

Redwine said that since he introduced legislation providing for incorporation referenda for about a fourth of Brunswick's 17 towns,

that he feels a certain responsibility to help them get off "on the right foot" so that they can provide services and help make the quality of life better for their residents. "One way I can do that is through education," he added.

Among other things he wants to discuss is solid waste, particularly a state mandate that local governments be recycling 25 percent of their waste stream by 1993. Some towns, such as Sunset Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes—have active programs begun on a voluntary basis. Others have not.

He also wants to put up for discussion the possibility of consolidating the various municipal ABC boards into a single, countywide ABC system.

If the towns are interested, Redwine said legislation could be introduced to merge the systems, making provisions for distribution of profits.

Personnel with the State ABC Board have suggested the possibility, he noted, "And we won't know how the towns feel if we don't talk about it."

While several Brunswick County towns have discussed the possibility of regular meetings of their mayors and administrators, no formal group has ever emerged. Redwine said he would like to see the towns begin networking in some fashion.

Invited to the meeting are officials of the 17 towns and cities located in Brunswick County, which has the largest number of any county, and Surf City and Topsail Beach in Pender County, which are located in Redwine's legislative district.

County commissioners have also been invited.



PHOTO BY GEORGE HIBIZ

Parker Addresses Vets

Brunswick County Veterans Service Officer Jess Parker (left), guest speaker, is shown with District 5 Commander Walter Goldsberry of Shallotte at a Veterans Day flag ceremony at the Calabash VFW building.

Boost Farm Management Skills

Applications will be accepted through Dec. 1 for the next Master Farm Management Seminar, sponsored by the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and the Farm Credit System Association.

Objectives of the week-long event are to increase the farm management skills of participating farmers. This year's program will include the use of ExCel, N.C. State University's mobile computer lab.

Applicants must be between the ages of 29 and 45, actively engaged in the farm operation, and be a high school graduate. The course requires an extensive amount of "pencil work," according to an extension newsletter.

To apply, contact the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Office, at P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, NC 28422, 253-4425.

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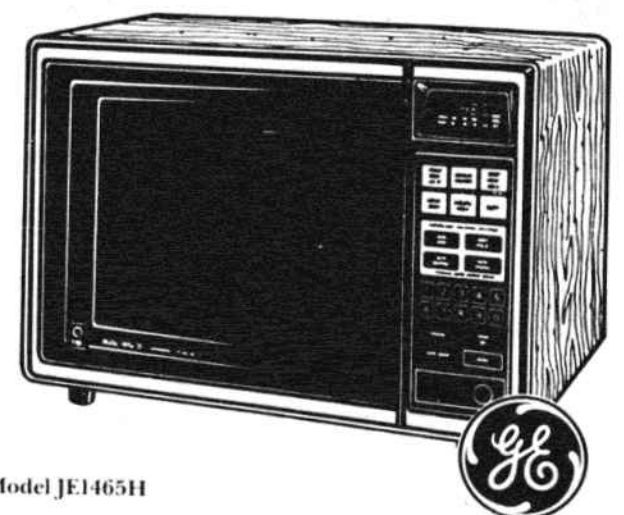


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